

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 MMO-01 SIG-01 L-03 PM-04 INR-07

PER-01 ABF-01 SP-02 /042 W
----- 065223

R 181200Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1267
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 1758

SECDEF FOR DSAA/ISA(SA)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, UY

SUBJECT: MAAG REQUIREMENT STUDY

REF: STATE 119079

1. FOLLOWING EXAMINATION OF OUR OVERALL INTERESTS HERE COMBINED WITH ANTICIPATED FUTURE LEVELS OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE, I CANNOT ARGUE FOR RETENTION OF A MILGROUP IN URUGUAY AFTER FY 77 BASED ON A PRIORITY NEED, ESPECIALLY AS THIS IS PART OF A CONGRESSIONALLY-MANDATED WORLD-WIDE REDUCTION. HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO PERMIT AN ORDERLY REDUCTION AND TO OVERSEE THE INTEGRATION OF THE A-37S (URUGUAY'S ONLY MAJOR WEAPONS SYSTEM PURCHASE IN RECENT YEARS) INTO THE URUGUAYAN AIR FORCE, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD MAINTAIN THE MILGROUP STRUCTURE THROUGH FY 77. AFTER THAT TIME THE ENVISAGED THREE-OFFICER LIAISON ELEMENT ASSIGEND HERE SHOULD BE ADEQUATE TO CONDUCT ON-GOING MILITARY SECURITY ASSISTANCE MATTERS. I ASSUME THAT THE THREE WILL BE PROVIDED WITH ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.

2. A MORE ABRUPT PHSE-DOWN COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR BROADER POLITICAL INTERESTS. THE INFLUENCE OF THE ARMED FORCES IS FELT IN BOTH POLICYMAKING AND PROGRAM INPLMENTATION THROUGHOUT THE GOVERNMENT AND NO SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN THIS INFLUENCE IS IN SIGHT. CONSEQUENTLY, OUR DAY-TO-DAY RELATIONS WITH ALL ELEMENTS OF GOVERNMENT DEPEND TO SOME DEGREE ON OUR RELATIONS WITH THE

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MILITARY. A SUDDEN AND DRASIC CHANGE, SUCH AS A SUDDEN ELIMINA-

TION OF THE MILGROUP IN FY 77, COMING ON THE HEELS OF TERMINATION
OF MAP/M AND OTHER MAP CHANGES, WOULD, IN MY VIEW, ADVERSELY EF-
FECT NOT ONLY OUR BROADER INTERESTS BUT ALSO OUR ABILITY TO
RESPOND EFFECTIVELY TO ON-GOING MILITARY PROGRAMS IN THIS TIME
FRAME.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY ATTACHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MONTEV01758
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760192-0401
From: MONTEVIDEO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760542/aaaabjtk.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 119079
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by coburnhl>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAAG REQUIREMENT STUDY
TAGS: MASS, UY, US
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006